



JANUARY 6, 1996

THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

The President's Pen

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Well, here we are into a new year and I wonder what 1996 will bring to us. Christmas has come and gone and all of you who were lucky enough to receive a new radio toy as a present will be wearing them out before the month is over, if not sooner. I heard a couple of hams testing out their new HT's on the machine early Christmas morning. They were not GARS members, as far as I could tell, but it was nice to hear some activity pertaining to this. This newsletter will be having some changes taking place with our new Editor Ike, KE4GYM, doing a great job with layout. We are also being blessed with

good write-ups by a lot of old timers like Picket, AD4S and Cheryl, AE4HN. The newsletter needs some more input so dig down and help.

LOTS TO DO IN 1996

We have a lot to look forward to in 1996 as far as the club is concerned as we prepare for the coming spring weather and a bundle of activity. This will take a bunch of dedicated hams willing to take on a challenge and get others motivated to work with them. I will expect lots of cooperation from the members in getting this accomplished. This is your club and you make the club tick. It takes more than 5 officers to make the

(Continued on page 4)

Cheryl McClure, AE4HN 1995 GARS Ham Of The Year

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

At our annual Christmas party, Cheryl, AE4HN was the well deserved recipient of the annual GARS Ham Of The Year award. Cheryl has been instrumental in many of the clubs programs, in helping many new hams get established, and providing weekly code practice sessions to enable many a ham to upgrade over the past year. She has served as head of the Rookie Radio since its inception in 1994, and has been a steady

booster for the club including her recent appointment as a certified volunteer examiner to the GARS VE team.

Cheryl's devotion to the hobby and to her fellow hams has made her the number one choice for this award. There were many others deserving of this award which gave the executive committee a very hard job to do in sorting it all down but we know the membership will agree with our final decision.

A New Year, A New Format

The New Year brings a change to **THE GARZETTE**, a new format. I have changed over from using AmiPro to Microsoft Publisher for Windows 95. This allows me greater freedom in putting **THE GARZETTE** together each month since Publisher is frame oriented instead of column oriented as was AmiPro. You will still find the regular columns each month, President's Pen, Ham Of The Month, Rookie Radio, etc. but with a slightly different look. I hope to be adding more graphics with in future issues but time was a constraint in getting the first issue to press. I would like to hear feedback from the GARS members on the new look, so give me a call.

Happy New Year
Ike Chapman, KE4GYM
Editor

Inside This Issue

The Way I See It, Part 1	Page 2
No Code Classes	Page 3
Ham Of The Month	Page 5
Antenna Forum	Page 7
My News Years Resolutions	Page 8
ARRL Electronic Forms	Page 8
Rookie Radio Notes	Page 9
SKN 1995, Something Different	Page 10
Metro Atlanta Club Meetings	Page 11
Metro Atlanta Test Sessions	Page 12
Metro Atlanta Nets	Page 12

THE GARZETTE

THE GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format by email to ichapman@intergate.net or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 236-7372, to Ike Chapman in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

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My thanks to all of them for their help in producing THE GARZETTE.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in THE GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for THE GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

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Attn: Newsletter Editor

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The Way I See It, Part 1 FCC Part 97

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

The Amateur Radio Service that we all enjoy is governed by the Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations Part 97. Beginning with this article, I plan to go through these rules and regulations and give you my understanding (and interpretation) of what they mean.

These rules and regulations have to conform to international agreements that the United States is a signatory to. In addition, these rules and regulations represent the influence of licensed amateurs, citizens who have had their TV's interfered with, commercial interests that would like to have access to our "private" radio frequencies, law makers and politician's as well as citizens wanting to use this service for communications purposes but who do not want to take an exam to qualify for such a privilege.

I will begin with a general overview and description of the entire Part 97 and, as the mood strikes me, I will take each subpart and produce another article. If the particular subject matter of one of the subparts causes the article to be particularly lengthy, then perhaps two articles will result from a single sub-part.

One of the reasons that I decided to undertake this series is that in my 34 years of licensed amateur radio activity, I have noticed that a number of the issues that Part 97 covers are constantly the subject of conversations between hams and others. These discussions take place on the air, off the air, with hams and with non-hams alike. While I certainly don't think my interpretation is the only one, I do think that it represents the thinking of many amateurs, both new and old. For those

of you who disagree with my position on any this material, I invite you to publish a rebuttal in the GARZETTE in the spirit of healthy journalism.

So let's get to it:

Part 97 is divided into five sub-parts and two appendices as of July, 1995. The sub-parts are:

- Subpart A - General Provisions
- Subpart B - Station Operating Standards
- Subpart C - Special Operations
- Subpart D - Technical Standards
- Subpart E - Providing Emergency Communications
- Subpart F - Qualifying Examination Systems
- Appendix 1 - Places Where the Amateur Service is Regulated by the FCC
- Appendix 2 VEC Regions

I am sure most of you have a passing acquaintance with this document, so bear with me. I think the basic purpose of these rules and regulations are as follows:

- Comply with international agreements
- Safety of Individuals
- Justifiable use of scarce spectrum resources
- Provision for emergency facilitation
- Enforcement of standards
- Licensing of qualified individuals

Based on my experience, it appears that the FCC over time has really tried to keep the changing political and economic climate in mind while serving the points mentioned above. They have done a good job given the resources made available to them.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

While they may have been slower than their counterparts in other countries when it comes to adopting changes to take advantage of newer technologies, they have not been obstinate in listening to their constituents and ultimately making changes that are for the good of the order.

With hundreds of thousands of human beings interested in this activity, there will always be individuals and groups that disagree with the decisions and the justification given for some of the changes that have been made. This has been especially true of the "incentive licensing" program that came in the late 1960's and more recently the "no code" license. If you review the "Basis and Purpose" of the Amateur Radio Service which is the very first item found in Part 97 and reflect objectively on what that says, then most of the controversial changes seem to meet that criteria.

In the next article in this series, I will jump right in and get started with my understanding of Subpart A - General Provisions. In this article we will look at what the FCC thinks the reason is for even having an amateur radio service (and you thought it was for you to have fun). I hope this series is helpful to everyone and will stimulate a healthy discussion between all of us. I ask that everyone try to keep other perspectives in mind and encourage this dialog.

I don't know that an article from this series will appear in consecutive monthly issues, but I will continue them, as time permits, until I work my way to the very end. Keep those cards and letters coming.

AD4S.



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(Continued from page 1)

club run the way most of us want it to be run, a club that is active in the community and within itself. We need a club that cares about newcomers and old timers alike, a club that goes out of its way to greet others who are not club members and welcomes them to our area when heard on our WD4JXR repeater. I am asking those members who have not been attending our monthly meetings, field day activities, and radio demonstrations, to please find some time throughout 1996 to rally around your club and support us with your many talents. It is through the miracle of radio demonstrations that we pick up a lot of new members for the GARS. We did not do as well in 1995 as we did in 1994 and I would like to see the enthusiasm rekindled in this activity as it exposes us to the public. It generates interest in the hobby as well as letting some hams who are running around shopping know that we are an active club and they want to join us on the spot.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

There will be nominations for officers for 1996 at this January meeting so bring your favorite candidate along with their approval to the meeting. The nominating committee will have their choice for officers to propose to the membership but further nominations will be taken from the floor. You may nominate anyone who has given you permission to do so and of course yourself if you have someone to nominate you.

The following is a short description of the club officers and what some of their duties are:

PRESIDENT

The President must be able to lead the membership and motivate them into a solid commitment to the club in supporting it and to stand by every activity ready and willing to donate time and energy to all club projects. The President must look for constant ways for the club to

grow and become financially strong and promote the image of the club to be open warm and friendly and helpful to all. This person must be respected by all the membership and the membership must have confidence in that person to oversee all club matters and to keep the fires of good fellowship burning and to dampen the fires of jealousy and suspicion.

VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President must be a person who is very active with the club and is willing to be a diplomat and sit in on various committees appointed by the President. He/she has to work very closely with the President in informing him of all potential club business and activities and act as a good will ambassador at large.

SECRETARY

We will need a good Secretary who will be active and keep up with the club records and our close ties with the ARRL as a special services club. He/she will need to pick up the mail at the Post Office and work with the Treasurer and Membership Chairman. There is a lot to do for an active Secretary and we hope we do get one as the position is very important. If you would like to take on this challenge, or you know of someone who would, get in touch with the nominating committee before the February election or get that person(s) acceptance and you can nominate him or her yourself. You can also have someone nominate you if you are interested.

TREASURER

We also need a good Treasurer who has to be in constant touch with the President on all club finances and keep an accurate account of club business. Having a computer is almost a requirement as our files are kept on Quicken at the present time and we can easily download all information on the BBS.

ACTIVITIES MANAGER

The club Activities Manager

is another important position for the club. Being able to coordinate all activities with the membership and have monthly programs available for our meetings is a must requirement. It means keeping in touch with the members by telephone who have volunteered and to lead all activities by being part of them. As you can see, this requires another dedicated person. This person must have experience with club activities and have leadership potential and can delegate the work load and attend most all of the activities.

Without all of the officers mentioned above pulling for one thing which is the club and the full support of all the members, very little will be accomplished in 1996 and we must avoid this at all cost. There is too much to do and much to lose by being inactive. All contributions no matter how small are very important in the final outcome. You must get involved or there will be no fun programs, no field day, no club picnic, no Christmas party, no helping each other out in time of need. Wake up everybody its time to plan for 1996.

WANTED GOOD PR PERSON

Joe, AD4PZ who has done an outstanding job as the official GARS PR person for the past 2 years would like to step down and work on his own with the GARS putting in special attention at his own pace.

So that leaves an opening for someone to come in and learn the PR ins and outs with Joe as your teacher. Some of the requirements are, a good camera, be able to take good pictures, follow the GARS around on all their activities so you can continue filling up the GARS photo album books that we have open at all our meetings and at our activities and communicate with all the media you can to spread the good news about the GARS. Think you can do it? Then get in touch with Joe,

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
we need you badly.

ATTENTION FIELD DAY COMMITTEE

With the new year here, you must pick a chairman for yourselves and start to plan for the 1996 field day events. It will be here before you know it and there is much to do. The first priority I would suggest you do during January is to line up the Lawrenceville City Park for this year. Call Vince, AE4CQ for info or Steve, AD4LY.

CHRISTMAS PARTY A SUCCESS

Our Christmas party turned out to be a rocking success and those of you who missed it sure lost out. I realize that not every one could attend this event due to other commitments or sickness or other matters, but we did have a great time and I want to thank again the committee that put it together they did a great job. The food was excellent and the background music supplied by Lee, KD4HPD was very fitting for the occasion. We even had a few dance a tune or two and we had a great auction of various things that produced a charitable donation to the children of Paul Wolfe, AD4NQ. Everyone seemed to have had a great time from the comments made at the door at leaving time which was around 10:30 or so

REPEATER NEWS

Well, we are off to a good start with our monitoring of our 440 link frequencies and so far we have come up with a couple of quiet ones and we are now looking at a third at this writing so we should be ordering the crystals for the links and be off and running soon.

The 440 repeater has a new antenna on top of the 160 foot tower at Snellville and the signal has improved quite a bit so give it try. It is a perfect choice for secondary use and the coverage will surprise you. Junior, KE4VWN

was greatly appreciated when he volunteered to help me locate the added line necessary to move the signal over to the new location. Joe, AD4PZ was also with us tugging and pulling along with us. This repeater is old and cantankerous and my feelings are that we should pursue another one to take it's place preferably a used GE Master 2 which is inexpensive and reliable. Upgrading will depend upon the use required by the club which at the present time is very small indeed.

The Bogan Rd site is about ready to put the electronics in place as the crew has performed quite a job in preparing the site. As soon as we receive the crystals for our links and work out a few details, we will be ready to go on line.

There is still some work left to do at the Goshen Springs site and we hope that the remaining grounding and installation of the in line lightning protectors will take place soon. Everything is going on schedule and we are looking good.

MEETING PLACE COMMITTEE NEEDED

We are in desperate need of a new meeting place starting in April and we need a self appointed committee to take over and locate a meeting place for the club. I had mentioned in last months newsletter that Lawrenceville would be preferred as it is local to most areas that we serve into the far reaches of the county. You all know the requirements that we have. The meeting place must be capable of holding up to a hundred persons with an average of 60 or so attending. We will pay a small fee if that is the only alternative we have. The committee must handle all the details and report back to us on their findings including making the contacts with the proposed meeting place authorities. This is too big a thing to lay on the Presidents back and it's going to take some leg work to

accomplish this task but it needs to be done and done soon. It would be nice if we could still have a place to meet including a dinner and even better if the menu was low priced and very diversified in selections as a lot of members are allergic to certain foods. We would like to hear from someone willing to take on this challenge as chairman and find some other members to work with. If we don't hear from someone long before the April meeting then it will be very difficult for the President to call a meeting.

NON PROFIT STATUS

I have been pursuing for the past few months the possibility of the club gaining full tax free status as a non profit group. There are many benefits to this and since this club has grown to huge proportions, we need to look at this seriously as a future way to be able to accept donations and pass on to the giver a tax break and to be able to get a bulk mailing priority with the post office so we can cut our heavy postage expenses. At the present time, I am doing this without any legal expense with the help of Don, KS4WR, but if there are some legal buffs out there willing to work out the details at no cost to the club, I would welcome their help with open arms.

January Meeting

At this writing I have no idea what our program will be but I hope to see a lot of you at the meeting. If a lot of you want to eat before the meeting then I suggest Ryans Steak House on West Pike Street (GA 120) or some other place that you members might want to go too. Talk it up on the machine and come up with some ideas for that. Our January, February and March meeting place will be in the main auditorium of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center starting at 7.30pm.

73

Howie, W4NVF

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Lowrey Rouse, KM4Z GARS Ham Of The Month

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Our Ham of the Month this month is Lowrey Rouse, KM4Z. While Lowrey was a member of GARS in the early 1980's he just returned to the club last fall and is already very active in club activities.

Lowrey was born and raised in Abingdon, Virginia and went all the way through school there including four years at Virginia Highlands Community College. He was interested in electricity and electronics fairly early and when he was 12 he received a pair of walkie talkies (11 MHz) that he really enjoyed.

When he was 16, he got his Novice license and began his ham radio career. His first call sign was WN4JGV. His equipment included a Heath DX60B crystal controlled transmitter and a Hallicrafters S-120 general coverage receiver. His antenna was a 40 meter only coax fed dipole.

Lowrey also got his driver's license *about this time* and became heavily involved in getting a car and working on some of the old muscle cars and as a result let his ham license expire (the novice license was only good for one year at that time and was not renewable). During this time Lowrey was also involved in the Boy Scouts which he still recommends as an excellent growing activity for youngsters.

After finishing his formal schooling, Lowrey went to work for the Virginia Department of Highways. The coal mining economy around Abingdon was suffering and working for the state was a real coup.

In 1977, Lowrey's became interested in ham radio again. He had used another personal radio service during the mid 1970's and that helped rekindle his interest. He also had friends and relatives that were now interested in ham radio

also. He took his novice test again early in 1977 and became WD4ECF. That summer, Lowrey and his cousin, WD4DNG, drove from Bristol to Atlanta to take the General Class test. (the famous Angelo Ditty, K4GKB, was still at the FCC in Atlanta). He passed the code test and missed the written by one question. By this time, the FCC was giving the one year certificate for satisfactory completion of the code but Lowrey had to drive all the way back to Virginia without getting his General Ticket since the 30 day waiting period was still in effect. In October of 1977, Lowrey went to Salem, Virginia where the FCC conducted testing twice a year and passed the written test. He kept his WD4ECF call sign.

Lowrey rewarded himself with some new ham gear. (Don't we all do that from time to time?) He purchased a Heath HW-101 and an MFJ901 antenna tuner (matcher) and put up an 80 meter inverted V. He also picked up a Yaesu FT227R memorizer in early 1978 and is still using it on packet.

In the fall of 1978, Lowrey participated in an Advanced Class that was sponsored by the Kingsport, TN ARC. One of the members of that club was an executive with Tennessee Eastman and also a friend of Angelo Ditty so Angelo brought several of his staff to Kingsport on a Saturday and administered the Advanced Class tests. Lowrey now had his Advanced ticket and kept his WD4ECF (Easy Chicken Farmer) call sign.

Lowrey was really hooked now and spent a lot of time on both CW and phone doing good old ragchewing. He said that he really didn't care whether it was

DX or not, he just enjoyed meeting and talking. As a matter of fact, he was awarded the ARRL Ragchewers Certificate during this time.

In the Spring of 1979, Lowrey came back to Atlanta and passed his Extra Class exams. While he was at it, he also got his 3rd Class Commercial in case he ever wanted to be a disk jockey. (He and Jim Baker need to get together). He changed his call sign to the present KM4Z. Lowrey had been a member of the Bristol, VA ARC during most of his second ham career. He rewarded himself this time by getting a used Drake TR22C 2 meter portable. Lowrey was active on the Virginia Slow Speed Traffic Net and handled a lot of traffic. He was also active in the annual SET activities. In 1980, Lowrey received the ARRL 25 WPM Code Proficiency Certificate.

In late 1980, Lowrey decided to improve his career and took a position with Tibbetts Electrical Service in Atlanta and moved to Snellville. (He wanted to be where everybody is somebody). Since he was active on two meters and worked the GARS and Stone Mountain repeaters, Lowrey met Rob Huckaby, WB4GKI who invited him to join GARS. Lowrey brought a 50 foot Rohn tower and a TA33 Jr. beam with him from Virginia and installed it at his new home. He had an 11 element 2 meter beam and separate 80 and 40 meter inverted V's. In 1983, Lowrey sold his HW101 at the Atlanta Hamfest and bought a Kenwood TS430S with all the accessories and he is still using it today. He also had one of the Heath SB-230 single tube linear briefly but the TVI in

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

his neighborhood caused him to get rid of it. (Like most of us, he wishes he still had it.)

Lowrey drifted away in 1983 when he and 7 other hams bought a 10 meter FM repeater and put it on the air. The transmitter was located at the Conyers ARC repeater site and the receiver was in Snellville on a 200 foot Scientific Atlanta tower. Several of the other hams that were involved were Jim, WB4LBM, Charles, WB4JEH and Sonny, WB8LVH who was quite helpful with some of the costs. Ray, WA4DCL, of Scientific Atlanta was also a big help getting on the Snellville site. They installed a 440 link between the two sites. (I hope Lowrey is on the repeater committee.) When propagation really hit the skids, interest in the 10 repeater waned, the Snellville tower came down and the project came to an end. Lowrey says he still has some of the components. (Howie take note.)

Moving on into the 1990's, Lowrey continued to maintain a regular sked with his friend, Gary, KM4X in Marion, Virginia which now has been going on for more than 15 years. He bought a Kenwood TM733 dual bander in 1994 and began working the local repeaters during drive time. As a result of several contacts with Carlton, WA4ZUW, and an invitation from Johnny, W4WKP, Lowrey joined GARS again last October and was immediately put to work with Dave, AD4UU, at the Bogan Road repeater site.

In 1993, Lowrey moved his family to the Lawrenceville/Lilburn area. He still has his tower and beam but has not put them up. He did use a section of his tower and a mast and put up a 2 meter beam. He has an all band inverted V on the H.F. bands. He is also working packet with an AEA PK-64. Also in his inventory, he has an AZDEN PC480 10 meter FM mobile rig (I had forgotten

they even made that one), a Yaesu FT-290 all mode 2 meter rig and a Yaesu FT-2400 2 meter mobile.

Lowrey has been married to Johna since 1975 and has one daughter, Shonda who is a teenager now. (She kept wanting the phone while we were doing this interview.) He is presently employed by a Finnish company, Ahlstrom/Kymr who makes recovery boilers and evaporators used by the paper and pulp mills. He does electrical cost estimates for the installation of their equipment in paper mills. He presently doesn't have to travel much and says it is the best job he has ever had.

Future goals for Lowrey include upgrading his packet equipment and knowledge and getting his tower and beam back up. He also would like to get back to using CW more and be able to easily hold a QSO without having to write anything down. (Time to work the golden fist, KD4KCR.) He would like to see GARS continue to grow and prosper along with the ever increasing population of Gwinnett County. He hopes to see the continued good nature of the club members and the continued community service and helpfulness to new hams and new members that he has found in the club. He is going to lend his efforts to supporting some kind of special event station for the 1996 Olympics. He is also interested in promoting more VHF/UHF contest activity in GARS.

If you haven't met Lowrey, look him up at one of the GARS events. You will know him by his voice. He has one of those voices that sounds like he is about to break into laughter at any minute. GARS is fortunate to get Lowrey back into the fold and we all look forward to his participation in the future.



ANTENNA FORUM

Saturday, January 13, 1996
at the
Gwinnett Administration
and Justice Center
Lawrenceville, GA

Featured Speakers
Bill Wall, KC4UZ
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My New Years Resolutions

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

I hereby resolve, for 1996:

1. To keep my microphone gain control below the 9 o'clock position and thus ALC within acceptable limits so that people don't hear my chair squeaking - and the room resonance that makes it sound to them like I am speaking down to them from the Mount of Olives.
2. To keep my SSB bandwidth within 3kc, unless some jerk moves in too close and needs to be dusted off.
3. To not chastise bad operating practices on the air, but rather in person as it should be, with the possible exception of getting people to stop using the phrase "by golly" more than three times in one breath.
4. To limit my repeater transmissions to under a minute during drive time, so as to free up the repeater for others to get a turn - unless I have a humorous anecdote to tell where I must let the repeater recycle 12 times to avoid timing out.
5. To quit checking into the net during the "officers and committee persons" time because I really wasn't listening to net control.
6. To not use my processor unless band conditions are such that require the extra punch, or unless I want to make my audio especially obnoxious sounding to disturb the person I am in contact with on purpose.
7. To never disturb a net on 80 meter phone, but to rather listen carefully and make my contacts on any of the wide expanses of unused spectrum found between these nets.
8. To more be tolerant of new operators, who know not what they do... and to really old ones who are in pretty much the same boat.
9. To learn to embrace the autopatch as single most important life-saving technical advance of the 20th century that it is. (A lot of people might not "get" this one)
10. To work harder to promote amateur radio as the SERVICE that it is, providing communications support for disasters, public events and people in distress, as well as being an alternate cellular provider for busy parents on the go.

♦♦♦

Note from the Editor:

The deadline for submission of articles to **THE GARZETTE** will change beginning with the February issue. The new deadline is now the first day of each month instead of the first Thursday with the previous deadline.

ARRL Increases Electronic Form Offerings

In an effort to make ARRL contest forms more quickly and easily accessible, the League offers them electronically via its automated information server (that also contains a wealth of other files). Concurrently, contest announcements in QST have become shorter and more "user friendly," aimed at acquainting newcomers with the general outline of each contest, how to operate in it, and what awards are available for participation and achievement.

Printed copies of the complete rules for all ARRL contests will be made available in a new publication called *The ARRL Contest Yearbook*; the 1996 edition of this booklet will be available in December, by mail, for \$5. Also included in the *Yearbook* are contest summary sheets, dupe sheets, zone maps, ARRL section lists, and an extensive Field Day package for clubs.

It should be noted that it is possible to participate fully in ARRL contests without obtaining the *Yearbook*, by downloading the summary sheets and generating one's own log and dupe sheets (that are automatically generated by the contest software now

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 8)

widely available and used.)

The ARRL's Automated Information Server is at info@arrl.org. Send a new message to info@arrl.org for each batch of requests. Each line of the message should contain a single command.

Valid info e-mail commands are:

- **help** (sends the help file)
- **index** (sends an index of the files available from info)
- **send** filename (sends "filename")
- **quit** (terminates the message)

*.RLS files are the rules for the different contests; *.FRM files are the entry summary sheets that can be edited with your contest result data. Use an ASCII text editor when inserting your contest data.

Reprinted from *The ARRL Letter* (Volume 14, No. 21) published by the American Radio Relay League.

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Don't forget the GARS challenge especially during these cold and damp Winter months. If you haven't heard about the GARS Challenge or need some information, contact Charles Robison, AD4MI at 923-3610

◆◆◆

Rookie Radio Notes

by Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

Happy New Year! Welcome to a brand new year of Rookie Radio. There's lots to tell you about this month, so here we go!

The 40 meter radio kits for HowieLab II have arrived. President Howie, W4NVF, is in the process of clearing off his workbench to make room for everyone. He will set a date soon; probably on a Saturday morning toward the end of the month. I'll call everyone in the class to let them know the date and time as soon as it is set. If you have your own pencil type soldering iron (15 to 25 watts) and wire snips, you'll be ready to go. If not, perhaps we can rustle up a loaner.

There is an Antenna Symposium (arranged by Johnny, W4WKP) which will be held on Saturday, January 13th at 9 AM. It will take place at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Building. If you need help finding it, just ask on the repeater. This is not a workshop. It will be a presentation with time for questions (and answers). Don't miss this if you are interested in building or just knowing more about antennas.

This is last call for anyone interested in an antenna workshop with our Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD. Larry will help you put together that dream antenna from scratch. You bring the

plans and supplies, and Larry will help you over the rough spots. Give me a call if you would like to join in at (770) 995-5159.

There is a No-Code Tech class beginning later this month at Central Gwinnett High School. You can find the details on the GARS information sheets at local Radio Shacks and at HRO. If you know anyone who is interested in getting a license, but just needs a little help with the studying, be sure to let them know about this opportunity.

Finally, don't forget that Code Practice is offered every Tuesday night on the GARS repeater at 9 P.M. Code is sent at 5, 8 13, 17 (a new addition, by request) and 20 words per minute. This is a great opportunity to test yourself to see if you are ready to take a code test. Join me or Beverly, KE4VDI, for fun and practice. And if you would be willing to help us out and send code practice once in a while, we would love to have you. Just give me a call and I'll show you how easy it is to do.

◆◆◆

A reminder that with the coming of a New Year, the start of the GARS new fiscal year is just around the corner on April 1. Dues can be renewed at any time and renewing early helps the executive committee plan for the coming year.

Work GARS

REPEATERS

2-Meter 147.075 MHz ⁺⁶⁰⁰
PL 82.5
70-cm 444.525 MHz ^{+5MHz}
PL 156.7

TELEPHONE BBS
GARS Conference in
Scientific-Atlanta BBS
(770) 236-7372

6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at
50.075 MHz

PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET
Tuesdays at 8:00 PM on the
GARS 2m Repeater.

MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00 PM Tuesday night net on the GARS 2m repeater.

PACKET RADIO USERS NET

Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the GARS
2m Repeater.

◆◆◆

SKN 1995, Something Different

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

GARS sponsored a slow speed Morse code roundtable for the ARRL Straight Key Night activity and it was different. For the last several years, different approaches have been taken beginning with an ad hoc roundtable in 1993.

This year the roundtable was aimed at the newer operators and moved to the ten meter band. Awards will be given at the January meeting for the favorite transmitter and straight key based on voting that will take place during the meeting. Equipment could be homebrew, military, antique or brand new.

While the roundtable never really got started, thirteen GARS members checked in on the assigned frequency during SKN. The following stations were heard or participated in CW exchanges: Pickett-AD4S (sponsor), Paul-K4HCM, Sid-KR4XW, Randy-AC4PD, Andy-KF4DAO, Dean-AD4OD, Dave-AD2Q, David-KE4WSJ, Ray-KA9GJL, Vince, Sr.-AE4CQ, Paul-KR4XR, Bob-WB4RPM and Joe-AD4PZ.

Due to band selection, propagation, power, operator experience and the "wouf hong", the roundtable never got going. The sponsor was using a thirty year old GALAXY V transceiver and initially had trouble getting on the assigned frequency so the start up was fairly laborious.

Some participants checked in

and checked right out but I think everyone learned something and some of us had a good time. At least one long QSO resulted with one of the newer members who is trying to increase his code speed and that is always worth the effort.

On interesting commentary on the precision and stability of modern ham equipment technology is that hams have become accustomed to getting on the assigned frequency within a few cycles (hertz). Those of us who started this hobby years ago were trained to listen up and down from the assigned frequency when trying to make a sked. Several GARS members almost missed the activity (and some probably did) because the writer's old rig was down the band about 1 KHz. Fortunately, AD4OD rang me up on the land line and got my old bucket of volts closer to the right frequency.

We hope to see some interesting entries for the awards at the January meeting. I invite anyone who used something interesting that they are not going to be able to display at the meeting to get me the information to include in a follow up article.

I moved to the 40 meter and then to the 80 meter bands after the GARS activity shut down and had a number of very interesting QSO's. The most gratifying contact was with AB5YY in Forest,

Mississippi who asked if I was using a paddle.

What we all learned from GARS SKN 1995 is that you really need a lot of patience get a slow speed CW roundtable going and keep the participants until the very end.

I, for one, am looking forward to GARS SKN 1996. If any of you have ideas that we can apply to make this event interesting and different, please let me know and I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting.

♦♦♦♦

GARS VE TEAM For 1995

by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Looking to upgrade your license or to get that first amateur radio license? In GARS that means the fourth Friday of the month and the following group of VE's:

VEC Howie Gould, W4NVF; Randy Drescher, AC4PD; Tom Henderson, AC4UR; Pickett Cummins, AD4S; Dave Rife, AD2Q; Charles Robison, AD4MI; Dean Matthews, AD4OD; Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; Frank Deak, AF4Y; Jim Baker; KR4XY; Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW; Cheryl McClure, AE4HN; Don Ennest, KS4WR; and Ben Beough, NK0X

Thanks fellows!

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Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
Roswell ARRL-VEC St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church

Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn. Mtn. CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - N Atlanta ARRL/VEC - Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142

Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362
Headphones!

Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Packet Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	8.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafras Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.

THE GARZETTE

JANUARY 6, 1996

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 20336



Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on January 18 at 7:30 P.M.